

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 928

By West

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 200th anniversary of The Hermitage.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a rich historical legacy, and it is of great importance that our heritage be protected and nourished so that future generations might learn and benefit from it; and

WHEREAS, The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, is one of our State's most beloved historical sites, and 2004 marks its 200th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The Hermitage is a true Tennessee treasure; it served as the home of one of the most influential men in the early history of our State and our nation and was thus the site of countless pivotal moments and occurrences in Tennessee and American history; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes much pride in being home to three extraordinary Presidents of the United States, but only The Hermitage, one of the nation's oldest and largest Presidential sites, can boast of being the location of two Presidential homes; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee purchased The Hermitage in 1855 to ensure its preservation, and, since 1889, the site has been entrusted to the stewardship of The Hermitage to The Ladies' Hermitage Association, which is one of the oldest historic preservation organizations in the country; and

WHEREAS, since then, more than fourteen million visitors have toured The Hermitage, with nearly 200,000 more people enjoying the historic home each year; and

WHEREAS, the Ladies' Hermitage Association has joined with Save America's Treasures for the First Hermitage Restoration, the only National Park Service funded Save America's Treasures Official Project in Tennessee; the five-year, \$1 million project will restore President Jackson's original farmhouse, which he purchased on July 5, 1804; and

WHEREAS, over the years, The Hermitage has made dramatic changes to ensure that it meets the challenges of the 21st century while remaining true to its heritage and mission; these changes have won the acclaim of visitors and several prestigious awards, including a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Park Service for preservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, as The Hermitage enters its third century, its caretakers are planning further improvements that will allow the 1,120 acre site to serve this state and our nation to its full potential; The Hermitage proposes to expand its facilities to create a larger presidential museum facility featuring new exhibition galleries, educational classrooms, community lecture halls, a theater, conference rooms, archaeological laboratories, collection storage spaces, and a research library, and to create programming that will foster civic literacy and foster cultural citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the historical gem that is The Hermitage has long been treasured by Tennesseans; because of the estimable efforts of The Ladies' Hermitage Association and Save America's Treasures, generations to come will be able to visit The Hermitage, marvel at its elegance, learn its story, and walk in the steps of President Andrew Jackson; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 200th anniversary of The Hermitage, reflecting fondly on the legacy of "Old Hickory," President Andrew Jackson. We honor and recognize The Ladies' Hermitage Association for their many years of service to Tennessee in maintaining The Hermitage and applaud their continuing efforts to ensure that the site will remain one of Tennessee's greatest historical treasures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.